

C1 variation. These habitats include marine tide pools, estuaries and inland saline ponds, springs, playas and lakes. Specific examples of these collection sites are: 1) saline warm springs such as those located along the Colorado river in Glenwood Springs, Colo., or along the western edge of the Stansbury Mountains, Utah; 2) playas such as Goshen playa located near Goshen, Utah; 3) marine tide pools such as those located in the Bird Rocks area of La Jolla, Calif.; and 4) estuaries, such as Tiajuana estuary, San Diego County, Calif. This process is described in detail in related U.S. Patent No. 5,130,242.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 38, 53, 59, 60 and 63 as follows, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. For the Examiner's convenience, Claims 39-52, 54-58, 61, 62, and 64-74 are reiterated below without amendment. Claims 75-85 have been added.

C2 1. 38. (Once amended) A method for reducing corrosion of a fermentor during growth of microorganisms in a saline fermentation medium, said method comprising:

obtaining microorganisms from a saline environment;

growing the microorganisms in the fermentor comprising a culture medium in which one of the primary inorganic ions is sodium which is provided in the form of a non-chloride sodium salt, wherein the culture medium contains a chloride concentration of less than about 3 grams chloride per liter of culture medium, and wherein the culture medium containing the non-chloride sodium salt as the primary source of sodium results in reduced fermentor corrosion compared to the culture medium containing sodium chloride as the primary source of sodium.

39. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 38, wherein less than about 50% of the sodium in the fermentation medium is supplied as sodium chloride.

40. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 38, wherein the non-chloride sodium salt is selected from the group consisting of soda ash, sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sulfate and mixtures thereof.

41. (Reiterated) The method of Claim 38, further comprising the step of maintaining the proper pH of the fermentation medium.